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Sixty-first year

Letter dated 15 August 2006 from the Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to attach herewith a communiqué from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela concerning resolution 1701 (2006) adopted by the Security Council on 11 August 2006, on the situation in Lebanon (see annex).

I would be grateful if this letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 14, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Francisco Javier **Arias Cárdenas**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

06-47210 (E) 210806 210806

Annex to the letter dated 15 August 2006 from the Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Communiqué

With regard to Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) adopted on 11 August 2006 on the situation in Lebanon, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela wishes to inform public opinion and the international community as follows:

1. It regrets that four weeks elapsed before the United Nations Security Council reacted to the loss of hundreds of lives, and to the injured and displaced — mainly among the civilian population, women and children — and also to the unjustifiable destruction of infrastructure, which has made it impossible for the humanitarian organizations to protect and safeguard Lebanese citizens and people of other nationalities from the cruel and indiscriminate attacks of the Israeli Army.

2. It makes a sincere appeal to the State of Israel to respect the norms and principles of international humanitarian law, recognized and endorsed by the international community, so that guarantees may be provided to the Lebanese civilian population.

3. It demands respect for the immediate cessation of hostilities called for in resolution 1701 (2006), since the bombings and the operations of the Israeli Army within Lebanese territory continue.

4. It reiterates its firm support for resolution A/HRC/S-2/L.1 adopted by the Human Rights Council, which condemns the systematic violation of human rights committed by Israel in Lebanon, as well as for the high-level commission of inquiry established by the Council to investigate these attacks against the civilian population and the infrastructure and to examine the type of weapons used and their conformity with international law.

5. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela confirms the right of the Lebanese and Palestinian people to the full exercise of their self-determination and independence and to live in peace.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs considers that at its next session the United Nations General Assembly should organize forthwith a comprehensive discussion on the need to transform the United Nations system and particularly to democratize the Security Council so that it becomes a genuine means of ensuring international peace and security, as called for so insistently by the peoples of the world.